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WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM,
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA
AND RELATED INTOLERANCE

Preparatory Committee
Third session
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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

DRAFT DECLARATION

Proposals made by the Group of 21

This document contains the proposals of the Group of 21 for a draft declaration for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. These proposals are submitted in accordance with the mandate of the group as stipulated in decision PC.2/3 adopted by the Preparatory Committee on 1 June 2001 at its second session. This document also includes the preambular paragraphs that were adopted by the Preparatory Committee on 1 June 2001.

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PP1 Having met in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 7 September 2001; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom)

PP2 Expressing deep appreciation to the Government of South Africa for hosting this World Conference; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom)

PP3 Drawing inspiration from the heroic struggle of the people of South Africa against the institutionalized system of apartheid as well as for equality and justice under democracy, [development], the rule of law and respect for human rights, recalling in this context the important contribution to that struggle of the international community and, in particular, the pivotal role of the people and Governments of Africa, and noting the important role that different actors of civil society including non-governmental organizations played in that struggle and in ongoing efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom)

PP4 Recalling that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights in June 1993 calls for the speedy and comprehensive elimination of all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom)

PP5 Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/74, General Assembly resolution 52/111 and subsequent resolutions of those bodies concerning the convening of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and recalling also the two World Conferences to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, held in Geneva in 1978 and 1983 respectively; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom)

PP6 Noting with grave concern that despite the efforts of the international community, the principal objectives of the three decades to combat racism and racial discrimination have not been attained and that countless human beings continue to the present day to be the victims of various forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom)

PP7 Recalling the year 2001 as the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, aimed at drawing the world's attention to the objectives of the World Conference and giving new momentum to the political commitment to the elimination of all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom)

PP8 Welcoming the decision of the General Assembly to proclaim the year 2001 as the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations [as well as [noting] the holding of the Asian Conference on Dialogue among Civilizations on 17 February 2001 in Tehran;] (Ongoing, 2nd PrepCom)

PP9 [Welcoming the adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration and Plan of Action on a Culture of Peace and its decision to proclaim the Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001 to 2010);] (Ongoing, 2nd PrepCom)

PP10 [Welcoming the decision of the General Assembly to proclaim the year 2001 as the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations and to proclaim the Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), as well as the adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration and Plan of Action on a Culture of Peace;] (Ongoing, 2nd PrepCom)

PP11 Recognizing that the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, in conjunction with the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, presents a unique opportunity to consider the invaluable contributions of indigenous peoples to political, economic, social, cultural and spiritual development throughout the world to our societies, as well as the challenges faced by them, including racism and racial discrimination; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom)

PP12 [Recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples of 1960;] (Ongoing, 2nd PrepCom)

PP13 Reaffirming our commitment to the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom)

PP14 Affirming that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance constitute a negation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom)

PP15 Reaffirming the principles of equality and non-discrimination in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom)

PP16 Convinced of the fundamental importance of universal accession or ratification to and full implementation of [the/our] obligations arising under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination as the principal international instrument to eliminate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance [based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin;] (Ongoing, 2nd PrepCom)

PP17 Recognizing the fundamental importance of States signing, ratifying or acceding to all relevant international human rights instruments [such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women [and its optional protocol,] the Convention on the Rights of the Child [and its two protocols] and the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families] in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance with a view to universal adherence; (Ongoing, 2nd PrepCom)

PP18 Having taken note of the reports of the regional conferences organized at Strasbourg, Santiago, Dakar and Tehran and other inputs from States, as well as the reports of expert seminars, non-governmental organization regional meetings and other meetings organized in preparation for the World Conference; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom)

PP19 Noting [with appreciation] the Vision Statement launched by President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa under the patronage of The Honourable Nelson Mandela, first President of the new South Africa, and at the initiative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Secretary-General of the World Conference, and signed by seventy-four heads of State, heads of government and dignitaries; (Ongoing, 2nd PrepCom)

PP20 Reaffirming that cultural diversity is a cherished asset for the advancement and welfare of humanity at large and should be valued, enjoyed, genuinely accepted and embraced, as a permanent feature which enriches our societies; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom)

PP21 [Acknowledging that the prohibition of racial discrimination, genocide, apartheid and slavery are norms of international law from which no derogation is permitted,] (Ongoing. 2nd PrepCom)

PP22 Having listened to the peoples of the world and recognizing their aspirations to justice, to equality of opportunity for all and everyone, to the enjoyment of their human rights, including the right to development, to live in peace and freedom and to equal participation without discrimination in economic, social, cultural, civil and political life; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom)

PP23 Emphasizing the importance of the equitable participation of all [peoples and States], without any discrimination, in their domestic as well as global decision-making respectively; (Ongoing, 2nd PrepCom)

PP24 [Affirming] that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance [acts] are against the dignity of humankind, [may] constitute [flagrant/most serious] violations of human rights, offences to humanity, obstacles to friendly and peaceful relations among peoples and nations and are among the root causes of many internal and international conflicts, including armed conflicts; (Ongoing, 2nd PrepCom)

PP25 Recognizing that national and international actions are required to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in order to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and to improve the living conditions of men, women and children of all nations [at the economic, social, cultural, civil and political levels]; (Ongoing, 2nd PrepCom)

PP26 [Reaffirming] the importance of the enhancement of international cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights and for the achievement of the objectives of the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; (Ongoing, 2nd PrepCom)

PP27 Acknowledging that xenophobia, in its different manifestations, is one of the main contemporary sources and forms of discrimination and conflict, combating of which requires urgent attention and prompt action by States, as well as by the international community; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom)

PP28 [Bearing in mind that the acknowledgement of the past problems caused by racially and ethnically discriminatory policies and practices would contribute to the resolution and prevention of racism, xenophobia and related intolerance;] (Ongoing, 2nd PrepCom)

PP29 [Affirming that identification and acknowledgement of the sources, causes and manifestations of racism and racial discrimination, such as colonialism, slavery, the slave trade and other forms of servitude which have been pursued in the past and their resolution are crucial to the prevention of recurrence of such policies and practices as well as attitudes and tendencies emanating from these evils and thus in saving the present and future generations from suffering and deprivation of all human rights thereof;] (Ongoing, 2nd PrepCom)

PP30 [Reaffirming that colonization by settlers and foreign occupation constitute sources, causes and forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;] (Ongoing, 2nd PrepCom)

PP31 Fully aware that, despite efforts undertaken by the international community, Governments and local authorities, the scourge of racism, racial discrimination, [*] xenophobia and related intolerance persist and continue to result in violations of human rights, suffering, disadvantage and violence, which must be combated by all available and appropriate means and as a matter of the highest priority, preferably in cooperation with affected communities; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom, list pending)

PP32 Noting with concern the continued and violent occurrence of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and that theories of superiority of certain races and cultures over others, promoted and practised during the colonial era, continue to be propounded in one form or another even today; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom)

PP33 Alarmed by the emergence [and continued occurrence] of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in their more subtle and contemporary forms and manifestations, as well as by other ideologies and practices based on racial or ethnic discrimination or superiority; (Ongoing, 2nd PrepCom)

PP34 [Strongly rejecting theories which attempt to determine the existence of so-called distinct human races;] (Ongoing, 2nd PrepCom)

PP35 Recognizing that failure to combat and denounce racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance by all, especially by public authorities and politicians at all levels is a factor encouraging their perpetuation; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom)

PP36 Reaffirming that States have the duty to protect and promote the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, including [indigenous peoples, people of African descent, people of Asian descent, migrants - documented and undocumented, refugees and asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons and persons belonging to other vulnerable groups,**] and that they should apply a gender perspective recognizing the multiple forms of discrimination which

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* The original proposal reads as follows: [religious intolerance, anti-Arabism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, Negrophobia,] A list is being discussed.

** A list is being discussed.

women can face and that the enjoyment of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights is essential for the development of societies throughout the world; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom)

PP37 Recognizing both the challenges and opportunities presented by an increasingly globalized world in relation to the struggle to eradicate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom)

PP38 [Determined in an era when globalization and technology have contributed considerably to bringing people together to materialize the notion of a "human family" based on equality, dignity and solidarity, and to make the twenty-first century a century of human rights and the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the realization of genuine equality of opportunities and treatment for all individuals and peoples]; (Ongoing, 2nd PrepCom)

PP39 [Reaffirming the right of [all individuals] [and peoples] to live [in peace] in a society free of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and stressing that such a right must be protected as a matter of the highest priority, and recognizing the duty of States to take prompt, decisive and appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;] (Ongoing, 2nd PrepCom)

PP40 Reaffirming our commitment to combating all manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on grounds of [race, lineage, colour, religion, culture, language or national or ethnic origin*] [aggravated by forms of multiple discrimination based on reasons of age, gender, [sexual orientation], physical and mental ability or socio-economic status*;] (Ongoing, 2nd PrepCom)

PP41 Dedicating ourselves to combating the scourge of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance fully and effectively as a matter of priority, while drawing lessons from manifestations of racism and past experiences in all parts of the world with a view to avoiding their recurrence; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom)

PP42 Join together in a spirit of renewed political will and commitment to universal equality, justice and dignity, salute the memory of all victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance all over the world, and solemnly adopt the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom)

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* Lists are being discussed.

Rallying to the call by the General Assembly for concrete recommendations on ways to increase the effectiveness of the activities and mechanisms of the United Nations through action-oriented programmes and a commitment to the provision of adequate financial and other resources, aimed at combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, we [Heads of State and Governments] hereby adopt this Declaration and Programme of Action grounded on actions at the local, national, regional and international levels, [to be reviewed in five years,] and commit ourselves to take individually and jointly further concrete steps and measures based on recommendations contained therein.

GENERAL ISSUES

1. [We recognize and affirm that, at the outset of the third millennium, a global fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and all their abhorrent and evolving forms and manifestations is a matter of priority for the international community, and that this Conference offers a unique and historic opportunity for assessing and identifying all dimensions of those devastating evils of humanity with a view to their total elimination through, inter alia, the initiation of innovative and holistic approaches and the strengthening and enhancement of practical and effective measures at the global level;]

2. We express our solidarity with the peoples of Africa in their continuing struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and recognize the sacrifices made by them as well as their efforts in raising international public awareness of these inhuman tragedies; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom)

3. We also affirm the great importance we attach to the values of solidarity, respect, tolerance and multiculturalism, which constitute the moral ground and inspiration for our worldwide struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, inhuman tragedies which have affected people throughout the world, especially in Africa, for too long; (Adopted by 2nd PrepCom)

4. [All peoples and all human groups [and individuals] are one human family, rich in its diversity. They have contributed to the progress of civilizations and cultures [of all human groups] which constitute the common heritage of humanity. Preservation and promotion of tolerance, pluralism and respect for diversity can produce more inclusive societies;]

5. Religion is a source of inspiration that calls humanity to overcome egoism and to be open to discover that part of the truth that is found in every human being and to build together a world for all;

6. We reaffirm the duty of States to realize their rights and fulfil their duties in such manner as to promote a national and international order, based on equity, solidarity and social justice that provides for social integration, a reduction of inequalities in the distribution of wealth and a more equitable distribution of the benefits of economic growth within and between nations, in a way that the rights and freedoms of everyone, including the right to development, can be fully realized;

7. We regret the flagrant contradiction that, in an era when globalization and technology have contributed considerably to bringing people closer together, the international community is evidently receding from the notion of a "human family" based on equality, dignity and solidarity;

8. We express our determination to prevent and mitigate the negative effects of globalization. These effects may contribute to, inter alia, cultural homogenization, growing economic disparities within and between States which may occur along racial lines, or may be based on social and economic exclusion, by marginalizing certain countries, peoples, communities and groups, especially those who continue to endure the legacy of slavery and colonialism. These could also contribute to the continuation and the strengthening of racist behaviour. We further express our determination to maximize the benefits of globalization with a view to the realization of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development, through strengthening cooperation to create increased opportunities for trade, economic growth and sustainable development, global communications through the use of new technologies and increased intercultural exchange through the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity, which may contribute to the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

9. The current process of globalization constitutes a powerful and dynamic force that should benefit, without exclusion, the development and the prosperity of all countries. At present, its benefits are very unevenly shared, while its costs are unevenly distributed. We recognize that developing countries and countries with economies in transition face special difficulties in responding to this central challenge. Thus, only through broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future, based upon our common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable;

10. [We recognize that interregional migration has increased as a result of globalization and stress that policies towards such migration from the South to the North should not be based on discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin;]

SOURCES, CAUSES, FORMS AND CONTEMPORARY MANIFESTATIONS OF RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE

11. We recognize and admit that slavery and the slave trade, other forms of servitude, conquest and colonialism were the primary sources and manifestation/a source of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and condemn the injustices that were committed, especially against Africans, people of African descent and indigenous peoples and stress the need for all States which were engaged in such practices to acknowledge the grave human suffering they caused and the heinous racist acts committed;

12. We also recognize that the political, socio-economic and cultural structures imposed in the context of slavery and the slave trade, and other forms of servitude, conquest and colonialism permitted and encouraged racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The consequences of this situation persist in many of our societies and constitute a source of systemic discrimination that still affects large sectors of the population;

13. We recognize that slavery and the slave trade, colonialism, apartheid, racism and racial discrimination that people in various parts of the world, notably Africans and people of African descent, have historically suffered is at the root of the situation of marginalization, poverty and exclusion that affects many people in several countries and that, despite the many efforts made, the situation persists in varying degrees;

14. All States must draw lessons from manifestations of racism in all regions of the world, suffering caused by slavery or which arose from colonialism must be remembered and this should not happen again;

15. We recall the historical fact that among the most hideous manifestations of racial discrimination the African continent and Diaspora have suffered, namely the slave trade, all forms of exploitation, colonialism and apartheid, were essentially motivated by economic objectives and competition between colonial powers for strategic territorial gains, appropriation and control over and pillage of natural and cultural resources;

16. We affirm that slavery, particularly of Africans and their descendants, and especially the transatlantic slave trade, was a unique and appalling tragedy in the history of humanity and a crime against humanity, not only because of its abhorrent barbarism, but also in terms of its enormous magnitude, its institutionalized nature, its transnational dimension and especially its negation of the very essence of the human nature of its victims;

17. We affirm that slavery, [colonialism,] and the slave trade, and other forms of servitude, particularly of Africans and their descendants and of indigenous peoples, was a unique and an appalling tragedy in the history of humanity and a crime against humanity, not only because of its abhorrent barbarism but also in terms of its enormous magnitude, its institutionalized nature, its transnational dimension, and especially its negation of the essence/dignity of the victims, [and further note that the practice of slavery is now universally recognized as a crime against humanity.]/[under international law/and further note that the practice of slavery/enslavement constitutes today a crime against humanity];

18. We repudiate the brutal crimes and injustices that were committed against indigenous peoples and Africans and their descendants who were subjected to slavery, the transatlantic slave trade and other forms of servitude that today could constitute crimes against humanity;

19. We emphasize that poverty and economic disparities between various parts of the world which owe their existence in part to colonial exploitation contribute significantly to the persistence of racist attitudes;

20. We observe that poverty is often closely associated with racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and that these practices aggravate the conditions of poverty, marginality and social exclusion of individuals, groups and communities;

21. We recognize the negative economic, social and cultural consequences of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including historical factors, such as the slave trade and colonialism, which have contributed significantly to the underdevelopment of developing countries and, in particular, of Africa and resolve to free every man, woman and child from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected, to make the right to development a reality for everyone and to free the entire human race from want;

22. We recognize that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance are among the root causes of armed conflict and very often one of its consequences and recall that non-discrimination is a fundamental principle of international humanitarian law. We underscore the need for all parties to armed conflicts to abide scrupulously by the rule laid down in this body of law and for States and the international community to remain especially vigilant during periods of armed conflict and continue to combat all forms of racial discrimination;

23. We express our deep concern that socio-economic development is being hampered by widespread internal conflicts which are due, among other causes, to violations of human rights, including discrimination based on ethnic or national origin and lack of democratic, inclusive and participatory governance;

24. We express our concern that inherited political and legal structures [based on colonial structures] or institutions persist in many States/throughout the world, that they do not always correspond to the multi-ethnic, pluri-cultural and pluri-lingual characteristics of the population and that, in many cases, they constitute the paramount factor of discrimination in the exclusion of indigenous peoples;

25. We express our profound repudiation/concern about the persistence of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, particularly in penal systems and in the application of the law, as well as in the actions of institutions and individuals responsible for law enforcement, which has contributed to the fact that certain groups, including people of African descent, indigenous peoples and migrants, represent an exaggerated proportion of prisoners in penal institutions and administrative detention centres;

26. We affirm the need to put an end to impunity for violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals and groups who are victimized by racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

27. We express our concern that beyond the fact that racism is gaining ground, contemporary forms and manifestations of racism are striving to regain political, moral and even legal recognition in many ways, including through legislative prescriptions such as those relating to the freedom of expression, the platforms of some political parties and organizations, and the dissemination through modern communication technologies of ideas based on racial superiority;

28. [We recall that, in accordance with international law, persecution of a group or community with a particular identity for racial or ethnic motives, as well as institutionalized racism, are serious violations of human rights and, in some cases, may qualify as crimes against humanity;]

29. All States must acknowledge the suffering caused by lack of respect for the equality of human beings manifested through wars, genocide, holocaust, apartheid, ethnic cleansing and other atrocities. All States must reject/prevent and punish ethnic and religious cleansing and

genocide in all regions of the world and work together to prevent their recurrence. [The (holocausts/Holocaust) and the ethnic cleansing of the Arab population in historic Palestine and in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo must never be forgotten;]

30. [We affirm that a foreign occupation founded on settlements, its laws based on racial discrimination, with the aim of continuing domination on the occupied territory, as well as its practices which consist of reinforcing a total military blockade, isolating towns, cities and villages under occupation from each other, totally contradict the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and constitute a serious violation of international human rights and humanitarian law, a new kind of apartheid, a crime against humanity and a serious threat to international peace and security;]

31. We strongly condemn the fact that slavery and slavery-like practices still exist today in parts of the world and urge States to take immediate measures as a matter of priority to end such practices, which constitute flagrant violations of human rights;

32. We affirm the urgent need to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, as a persistent and widespread slavery-like practice deeply rooted in racial and multiple discrimination;

VICTIMS OF RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE

33. We salute and acknowledge the memory of all victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, slavery and the slave trade, colonialism, [holocausts/Holocaust], [ethnic cleansing of the Arab population in historic Palestine] and in Kosovo and apartheid and foreign occupation all over the world and at all times];

34. We recognize that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance often target, notably on grounds related to language, religion or national or ethnic origin, persons such as migrants, asylum-seekers, refugees, displaced persons, non-nationals and indigenous peoples or, on grounds related to belonging to minorities, persons such as Roma/Gypsies and travellers;

35. We recall that for a large part of their history, the societies of the Caribbean region of the Americas, which comprise a majority of people of African descent and several minority racial groups, were societies founded and based on racism and devoted almost exclusively to the racist exploitation of their indigenous peoples and populations of African descent, and note that the Caribbean nations as a group have taken deliberate steps to address racial tensions through negotiations, thereby promoting the development of relatively tolerant multi-racial societies;

36. We also express our deep concern that indicators in the field of education, employment, health, housing, infant mortality and life expectancy for many people, especially [racial], cultural, religious, linguistic, ethnic or national [and sexual] minorities or groups, indigenous peoples, Africans and people of African descent, people of Asian descent, migrants, asylum-seekers, refugees, internally displaced persons and persons with disabilities, are lower than the average within the national population, as a consequence of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

37. We also recognize the value and diversity of the cultural heritage of people of African descent and affirm their full participation in all aspects of society, particularly in the affairs that directly concern them and that are considered to be essential;

38. We consider it essential for all countries in the region of the Americas and all other areas of the African diaspora to recognize the existence of their population, of African descent and the cultural, economic, political and scientific contributions made by that population, and recognize the persistence of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance that specifically affect them, and recognize that, in many countries, their longstanding inequality in terms of access to, inter alia, education, health care and housing has been a profound cause of the socio-economic disparities that affect them;

39. We recognize that people of African descent have for centuries been victims of racism, racial discrimination and enslavement and of the denial by history of many of their rights, and assert that they should be treated with fairness and respect for their dignity and should not suffer discrimination of any kind based on origin, culture, skin colour or social condition. Recognition should therefore be given to their rights to culture and their own identity; to participate freely and on equal conditions in political, social, economic and cultural life; to development in the context of their own aspirations and customs; to keep, maintain and foster their own forms of organization, their mode of life, culture, traditions and religious expressions; to maintain and use their own languages; to the protection of their traditional knowledge and their cultural and artistic heritage; to their ancestrally inhabited land; to the use, enjoyment and conservation of the natural renewable resources of their habitat and to active participation in the design, implementation and development of educational systems and programmes, including those of a specific and characteristic nature;

40. We also recognize that the legacy of slavery has contributed to perpetuating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against Africans and people of African descent throughout the Americas and all other areas of the African diaspora;

41. We recognize that in many parts of the world, Africans and people of African descent face barriers as a result of systemic social biases and discrimination, and call on States to work towards the eradication of all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance faced by Africans and people of African descent;

42. We recognize that the indigenous peoples have been victims of discrimination for centuries and affirm that they are free and equal in dignity and rights and should not suffer any discrimination, particularly on the basis of their indigenous origin and identity, and we stress the continuing need for action to overcome the persistent racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance that affect them;

43. We recognize the value and diversity of the cultures and the heritage of indigenous peoples,[1] whose singular contribution to the development and cultural pluralism of society and full participation in all aspects of society, in particular on issues that are of concern to them, are fundamental for political and social stability, and for the development of the States in which they live;

44. We reiterate our conviction that the full realization by indigenous peoples of their human rights and fundamental freedoms is indispensable for eliminating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. We firmly reiterate our determination to promote their full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, as well as the benefits of sustainable development, while fully respecting their distinctive characteristics and their own initiatives;

45. We also recognize the special relationship that indigenous peoples have with the land as the basis for their spiritual, physical and cultural existence, and that their lands and natural resources should not be taken away from them;

46. We fully recognize all of the rights of the indigenous peoples, in conformity with the principles of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, and that, in consultation with indigenous peoples, the necessary constitutional, administrative, legislative and judicial reforms must be promoted, including those derived from applicable international instruments;

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[1] The use of the term "peoples" in this document shall not be construed as having any implications as regards the rights that may attach to the term under international law.

47. We also urge the United Nations to ensure that the Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples is provided with all the necessary human and technical resources to fulfil his responsibilities and urges all States to cooperate with the work of the Special Rapporteur;

48. We recognize the positive economic and cultural contributions made by migration to both countries of origin and destination, and that orderly migration can provide a benefit to all our societies;

49. We reaffirm the sovereign right of each State to formulate and apply its own legal framework and policies for migration, including the granting of permission to migrants to enter, stay or engage in economic activity, while noting that undue stress on restrictive admission/immigration policies may produce negative stereotyping and thus adversely affect persons belonging to targeted groups and the integration of non-nationals;

50. We note with concern and condemn the manifestations and acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrants and the stereotypes usually applied to them, and reaffirm the responsibility of States to protect the human rights of migrants living in their territory and under their jurisdiction against illegal acts by their agents or by individuals or groups motivated by racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; and stress the need for their fair, just and equitable treatment in the society and in the workplace;

51. We highlight the importance of creating conditions conducive to greater harmony, tolerance and respect between migrants and the rest of society in the countries in which they find themselves, in order to eliminate manifestations of racism and xenophobia against migrants. We underline that family reunification has a positive effect on integration and calls upon States to facilitate family reunion, with due regard to the need for an independent status on the part of family members;

52. We are mindful of the situation of vulnerability in which migrants frequently find themselves, owing, inter alia, to their absence from their countries of origin and to the difficulties they encounter because of differences in language, customs and culture, as well as economic and social difficulties and obstacles to the return of migrants who are undocumented or in an irregular situation;

53. [We reaffirm that the discriminatory treatment of foreigners and migrant workers established or practised in certain countries, inter alia concerning granting visas, work permits, conditions of family members, housing and access to justice, based on race, colour, descent or

national or ethnic origin are human rights violations which seriously contradict the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;]

54. We recognize that documented long-term resident migrants should have the same economic opportunities and bear equivalent responsibilities, corresponding appropriately to non-citizens, as other members of society;

55. The problem of refugees and displaced persons represents one of the most serious challenges the international community has been faced with over the past decade. Millions of people have been forcibly expelled from their homes and subjected to ethnic violence and hostilities. Refugees and displaced persons already for many years have been deprived of elementary living conditions and the exercise of the most fundamental human rights and freedoms, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including the right to live in dignity and safety and participate fully in social and economic life in their places of permanent residence. This problem in particular undermines efforts of countries in transition to rebuild their national economies by drawing upon their limited resources, causes social tensions and puts into jeopardy their promotion of sustainable development;

56. We note with concern that racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance are among the causes which compel people to leave their countries of origin and seek asylum abroad;

57. Special attention should be given to the violations of the human rights of refugees in refugee camps and detention centres. Notes in this regard that, in the absence of effective protection measures, women and girls are often vulnerable to sexual assaults or other forms of violence;

58. The World Conference underlines the urgency of addressing the root causes of displacement and of finding durable solutions for displaced persons, including voluntary return in safety and dignity or local integration;

59. We recognize the presence in many countries of a Mestizo population of different ethnic and racial origins and its valuable contribution to the promotion of tolerance and respect in these societies, and we condemn discrimination against them, especially as such discrimination may be denied owing to its subtle nature;

60. [We express our deep concern about practices of racial discrimination against the Palestinians as well as other inhabitants of the Arab occupied territories which have an impact on all aspects of their daily existence such that they prevent the enjoyment of fundamental rights, and call for the cessation of all the practices of racial discrimination to which the Palestinians and the other inhabitants of the Arab territories occupied by Israel are subjected;]

61. We also recognize with deep concern the existence of religious intolerance against other religious communities, as well as the emergence of hostile acts and violence against such communities because of their religious beliefs and their racial or ethnic origin in various parts of the world, in particular limitation to their right to freely practise their belief;

62. [We are convinced that combating anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and [Zionist practices against Semitism] is integral and intrinsic to opposing all forms of racism and stress the necessity for effective measures to address the issue of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and [Zionist practices against Semitism] today in order to counter all manifestations of these phenomena;]

63. [We recognize with deep concern the increase in anti-Semitism and hostile acts against Jews in various parts of the world, as well as the emergence of racial and violent movements based on racism and discriminatory ideas concerning the Jewish community.] [The World Conference recognizes with deep concern the increase of racist practices of Zionism and anti-Semitism in various parts of the world, as well as the emergence of racial and violent movements based on racism and discriminatory ideas, in particular, the Zionist movement which is based on racial superiority;]

64. [We also recognize with deep concern the increased negative stereotyping of and hostility expressed against Muslims in various parts of the world, and express concern with regard to any overt manifestations of Islamophobia;]

65. [We take note of and express our determination to eradicate any and all manifestations of anti-Arab bias and discrimination, and in particular recognize that negative stereotyping contributes to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;]

66. We recognize that in certain parts of the world, people of Asian descent face systemic and overt discrimination and are affected by and are vulnerable to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

67. We recognize with deep concern the ongoing manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and violence that confront Roma and Travelers, and recognize the need to develop effective policies and implementation mechanisms for the full achievement of their equality;

68. We are convinced that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance reveal themselves in a differentiated manner for women and girls [causing their living conditions to deteriorate, generating multiple forms of violence and discrimination, and limiting or denying them the benefit and exercise of their human rights] and recognize the need to integrate a gender perspective into programmes of action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in order to address multiple forms of discrimination;

69. We recognize that poverty affects the political, economic and social status of women and men in different ways and to a different extent and urges Governments to perform gender analysis on all poverty eradication measures, including those designed to benefit ethnically disadvantaged groups;

70. [We deplore attempts in certain Western countries to oblige women belonging to the Muslim minority to forego their cultural and religious identity or restrict its legitimate expression or discriminate against them with regard to opportunities for education and employment;]

71. We observe with concern the large number of children, particularly girls, and young people among the victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance and stress the need to/and urge States to incorporate the principle of the best interest of the child and youth, with respect for their opinions, in programmes against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in order to give priority attention to the rights and the situation of children and young people who are victims of these practices;

72. We recognize that a child belonging to an ethnic, religious or linguistic minority or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practise his or her own religion, or to use his or her language;

73. [We recognize that child labour perpetuates poverty and inequality along racial lines by disproportionately denying children from affected groups the opportunity to acquire the human capabilities needed in productive life and to benefit from economic growth;]

74. We recognize that certain persons and groups may, in addition to experiencing acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance also/simultaneously experience

other forms of discrimination on the basis of/ground of their gender; age [mental or physical ability], disability, [genetic condition/congenital disorder] culture, language, religion, [sexual orientation], HIV/AIDS, [and barriers related thereto] economic or social status or social origin and property or birth, resulting thus in multiple discrimination. We stress that special attention should be given to the elaboration of strategies, policies and programmes aiming at equal opportunities, which may include [positive measures aimed at removing systemic barriers and other forms of discrimination and intolerance/affirmative action] for such persons;

75. We also recognize that some persons are victims of multiple discrimination, including on the grounds of race, colour, descent, ethnic, linguistic or national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, culture, social or economic status, property or birth;

76. We note with deep concern the fact that, in many countries, people infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, as well as those who are presumed to be infected, belong to groups vulnerable to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, has a negative impact and impedes their access to health care and medication;

MEASURES OF PREVENTION, EDUCATION AND PROTECTION AIMED AT THE ERADICATION OF RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE AT THE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

77. We recall that, without the necessary political will to recognize and assume responsibility for historical injustices and their contemporary forms and repercussions [modern slavery and slavery-like practices,] programmes of action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as the anti-racist slogans and measures adopted at the World Conference and at the regional and national levels, will not change deeply ingrained prejudices or achieve the noble goal of a genuine human family based on equal dignity and opportunities;

78. We regret the existence of inequitable political, economic, cultural and social conditions in which intolerance and racial discrimination breed and fester, and we believe that genuine equality of opportunity for development is fundamental for the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. We also understand that discrimination contributes to inequitable political, economic, cultural and social conditions, and that genuine equality of opportunity [for development] is fundamental for the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

79. We recognize that equitable participation of all groups and countries in the formation of a just, equitable, democratic and inclusive international order can contribute to a world free from racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

80. We affirm that universal adherence to and full implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination are of paramount importance for promoting equality and non-discrimination in the world. We affirm that the equal promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights and civil and political rights, including the right to development, must become the highest priority of Governments, [reflecting the aspirations of the peoples of the world/of their peoples];

81. We firmly believe that the obstacles to equality lie in weak legislation, lack of political will and, concrete action, and racist attitudes;

82. We firmly believe that education, development and the faithful implementation of our international human rights norms/obligations, including enactment of laws and political, social and economic policies, are crucial to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

83. We recognize that democracy, transparent and accountable/good governance, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are fundamental conditions for/play a central role in effectively preventing and combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. We further recognize the incompatibility between racism and democracy and are conscious that any form of impunity for crimes motivated by racist and xenophobic attitudes plays a role in weakening the rule of law and democracy, tends to encourage the recurrence of such crimes and requires resolute action and cooperation for its eradication;

84. [For too long diversity has been treated as a threat rather than a gift, and too often that misperceived threat has been expressed in racial contempt and conflict, in exclusion, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. We must discern in [human diversity and culture] [of race,] colour, descent, language, religion and national or ethnic origin the potential for mutual enrichment, and realize that it is the [dialogue and understanding, inter alia, amongst the [great] traditions of human spirituality that offer the best prospect for the fulfilment of human spirituality] interchange between people that offers the best prospect for cooperation, understanding and respect;]

85. We call for international efforts to promote an understanding between different civilizations and cultures so as to counter attempts at cultural and civilizational domination and imposition motivated by racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

86. We affirm that dialogue among cultures and civilizations emerges as an intrinsic demand of human nature itself, as well as of culture. This dialogue leads to a recognition of diversity and opens the mind to the mutual acceptance and genuine collaboration required by the human family's call to unity. Dialogue between cultures and civilizations is the path to the building of a reconciled world, a world able to look toward its future;

87. All human beings are born free, equal in dignity and rights. [All human beings are born with the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies. Theories which attempt to determine the existence of separate human races should be rejected.] Any doctrine of racial superiority is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous, and has no justification whatsoever;

88. We underline the key role that politicians and political parties can play in combating racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and related intolerance, and encourage political parties to take concrete steps to promote solidarity and tolerance;

89. We strongly condemn the persistence and resurgence of fascism, aggressive nationalism, ethnocentrism, religious and linguistic chauvinism, separatism, extremism and terrorism, in all their forms and manifestations, and state that these phenomena can never be justified in any instance, including as a means to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular those of persons belonging to national minorities;

90. We condemn legislation, political platforms, policies and practices and organizations based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. They must be condemned and are incompatible with democracy and with transparent and accountable governance. Racial discrimination justified by governmental policies violates human rights and may jeopardize friendly relations among peoples, cooperation among nations, and international peace and security;

91. [The prohibition of the dissemination of all ideas based upon racial superiority or hatred is compatible with the right to freedom of opinion and expression. This right is embodied in article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and is recalled in article 5 (d) (viii) of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Its relevance to article 4 of that Convention is noted in the article itself. The citizen's exercise of

this right carries with it special duties and responsibilities, specified in article 29, paragraph 2, of the Universal Declaration, among which the obligation not to disseminate racist ideas is of particular importance;]

92. Bearing in mind the necessity of drawing a distinction, through national legislation or by other means, between freedom of expression and propagation of racism, in conformity with international human rights norms;

93. [Article 4 [b] of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination places a greater burden upon such States to be vigilant in proceeding against organizations that promote or incite racial discrimination at the earliest moment. These organizations, as well as organized and other propaganda activities, have to be declared illegal and prohibited. Participation in these organizations is, of itself, to be punished;]

94. We recognize that the media should represent the diversity of a multicultural society and play their role in fighting racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. In this regard we draw attention to the power of advertising;

95. We note with regret that certain media circles, by promoting false images, particularly of migrant workers and refugees, have contributed to the spread of xenophobic sentiments among the public and have encouraged violence by racist groups;

96. We recognize the positive contribution the exercise of the right to freedom of expression, particularly by the media and new technologies, including the Internet, and full respect for the right to freedom of information can make to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. We reiterate the need to respect the editorial independence and autonomy of the media in this regard;

97. We express deep concern about the use of new information technologies, such as the Internet, for purposes contrary to respect for human values, equality, non-discrimination, respect for others and tolerance, including to propagate racism, racial hatred, xenophobia, racial discrimination and related intolerance, and that children and youth have access to this material;

98. [We also recognize the value of] The new technologies, including the Internet, [in combating] and eliminating/should be harnessed to [should contribute to fight] racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance [and should also be used to] promote tolerance and respect of human values, equality, non-discrimination, and respect for

others/[respect and tolerance for diversity]; [and urge their continued and enhanced use in this respect;]. We invite Governments to promote an environment that is favourable to making these values a reality;

99. All States should recognize the importance of community media, in particular community radio [and the Internet], that give a voice to individuals belonging to racially targeted groups/affected by or vulnerable to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and relate[1] intolerance;

100. We reaffirm that the stigmatization of people of different origins by acts or omissions of public authorities, institutions, the media, political parties or national or local organizations is not only an act of racial discrimination but also an incitement to the recurrence of such acts, thereby resulting in the creation of a vicious circle which reinforces racist attitudes and prejudices; such acts should be declared offences and crimes punishable by law;

101. We recognize that education at all levels, including within the family, in particular human rights education, is a key to changing racially discriminatory attitudes and behaviour which cannot be criminalized by law, and to promoting tolerance and respect for diversity of race, colour, descent, language, religion, culture, national and ethnic origin in societies. We further affirm that such education is a determining factor in the promotion, dissemination and protection of democratic values which are essential to prevent and combat the spread of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

102. We recognize that quality education, the elimination of illiteracy and access to free general education for all should promote more inclusive societies, equity, stable and harmonious relations and friendship between nations, peoples and groups, and a culture of peace, fostering mutual understanding, solidarity, social justice and respect for the human rights of all;

103. Stress that education and training programmes, as well as other social policies, should promote more inclusive societies, encouraging stable and harmonious relationships and friendships between different nations, peoples and groups, fostering mutual understanding, solidarity, tolerance, the development of a culture of peace, the study of the Holocaust and injustice against indigenous peoples and people of African descent in the Americas, social justice and respect for human rights for all;

104. We underline the links between the right to education and the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the essential/crucial role of education, in particular human rights education, especially amongst children and young people in the prevention and eradication of all forms of intolerance and discrimination;

PROVISION OF EFFECTIVE REMEDIES, RECOURSE, REDRESS, [COMPENSATORY] AND OTHER MEASURES AT THE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

105. We emphasize the importance and necessity of teaching about the past and recent history of colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to prevent the recurrence of similar policies and practices;

106. We consider that the recognition of these massive and institutionalized human rights violations through the acts and policies of slavery and the slave trade, colonialism, apartheid, racism and racial discrimination; we hereby express explicit and unreserved apologies to the victims and their heirs;

107. [We also affirm that this recognition would be meaningless without an explicit apology by the former colonial powers or their successors for those human rights violations, and that this apology should be duly reflected in the final outcome of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance;]

108. [We request those who, directly or indirectly, by commission or omission, participated, permitted, facilitated or tolerated colonialism, slavery of indigenous and African people and the slave trade, in particular the transatlantic slave trade, to apologize to the peoples concerned as a first step in the process of reparation to heal the wounds arising from these practices, as a fundamental prerequisite for the creation of the peace of mind of all parties involved, which gives future efforts better chances of success;]

109. [We note that other groups which were subjected to other scourges and injustices have received repeated apologies from different countries, as well as ample reparations, on a bilateral basis, from both public and private sources and lately through certain international organizations; and that, as all human beings are equal, all scourges and injustices should, therefore, be addressed with the same emphasis and fairness;]

110. [We affirm that, by recognizing the victims' right to remedies and reparation, the international community shows solidarity with victims in the cause of human rights and reaffirms the principles of the equality and dignity of all human beings, accountability, justice and the rule of law;]

111. We also strongly reaffirm as a pressing requirement of justice that victims of human rights violations resulting from racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, especially in the light of their vulnerable situation, socially, culturally and economically, should be assured of having access to justice, effective and appropriate protection and remedies, as well as legal assistance, including the right to seek and receive just and adequate reparation or satisfaction for material and moral damage, as enshrined in numerous international and regional human rights instruments, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

112. We are conscious that humanity's history is replete with terrible wrongs inflicted through lack of respect for the equality of human beings/through lack of recognition of human dignity and rights manifested through [wars], [military occupation by settlement] [and settlement policies], genocide, slavery, in particular the transatlantic slave trade, holocausts, [colonialism], apartheid, ethnic cleansing and other atrocities, and we salute the memory of their victims [and we understand/acknowledge the quest] of/recognize the right of the victims and their heirs to justice, dignity, respect and correction of, and compensation for, historical wrongs and their continuing consequences. [We call for open national and international dialogue as required to address these concerns;]

113. We acknowledge that the consequences of slavery, the slave trade, other forms of servitude and [colonialism] have resulted in substantial and lasting economic, political and cultural damage to Africans and people of African descent, and indigenous peoples, and that such damage, which has had crippling effects on the socio-economic development of these peoples, especially in Africa, now requires that substantial national and international efforts be made for reparations;

114. [We recognize that States which pursued policies or practices based on racial or national superiority, such as colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, slavery, the slave trade and ethnic cleansing, should assume responsibility therefor and compensate the victims of such policies or practices;]

115. We strongly reaffirm that States which pursued racist policies or acts of racial discrimination such as slavery and colonialism should assume their moral, economic, political and legal responsibilities within their national jurisdiction and before other appropriate international mechanisms or jurisdictions and provide adequate reparation to those communities or individuals who, individually or collectively, are victims of such racist policies or acts, regardless of when or by whom they were committed;

116. [We further affirm that, such reparations to victims of slavery, the slave trade and colonialism and their descendants should be in the form of enhanced policies, programmes and measures at the national and international levels to be contributed to by States, companies and individuals who benefited materially from these practices, in order to compensate for and repair the economic, cultural and political damage which has been inflicted on the affected communities and peoples, through, inter alia, the creation of a special development fund, the improvement of access to international markets for products from developing countries affected by these practices, the cancellation or substantial reduction of their foreign debt and a programme to return art objects, historical goods and documents to the countries of origin;]

117. We recognize the necessity of affirmative action or special measures for the victims of or persons vulnerable to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in order to rectify their disadvantaged position in society and the historical wrongs committed against them, because of past discriminatory policies directed against them. Measures for effective action should aim at correcting the conditions that impair the enjoyment of rights and the introduction of special measures to encourage equal participation of all racial and cultural, linguistic and religious groups in all sectors of society and to bring all onto an equal footing. Those measures should include special quotas in educational institutions, housing, political parties, parliaments, employment, especially in the judiciary, police, army and other civil services, as well as electoral reforms, land reforms and campaigns for equal participation;

STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE FULL AND EFFECTIVE EQUALITY, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS IN COMBATING RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE

118. We underscore the need to design, promote and implement at the national and international levels strategies, programmes and policies, and adequate legislation, which may include measures of affirmative action/[special/positive measures], for furthering equal social development and the realization of the civil and political, economic, social and cultural rights of victims of/[individuals] and groups [affected by or vulnerable to] racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including through more effective access to the political, judicial and administrative institutions, as well as the need to increase/promote access to [the national administration of justice], free from racial discrimination and related intolerance of any kind; as well as guaranteeing that the benefits of development, science and technology contribute effectively to the improvement of the quality of life of these populations;

119. We recall the importance of international cooperation to promote (a) the achievement of the objectives of the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; (b) the effective implementation of international treaties and instruments that forbid these practices; and (c) the implementation of the obligations of the United Nations and States in this regard; Recognizing that a worldwide strategy against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance can only succeed with the cooperation of States, international organizations, the international financial institutions, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, individuals and communities, such success requires specifically taking into consideration the opinions and demands of the victims of such discrimination;

120. We reiterate that the international response and policy, including financial assistance, towards refugee situations in different parts of the world should not be guided by considerations of the race, colour, descent, culture, language or national or ethnic origin of the refugees concerned and, in this context, urge the international community to extend assistance as requested by concerned States towards resolving the refugees' situation, especially in the developing countries, through economic and financial assistance aimed at, inter alia, removing the root causes of the displacement of such people;

121. We underline the essential contribution of independent specialized bodies at national, regional or local levels in promoting equal treatment irrespective of racial or ethnic origin or religious background;

122. We recognize the importance of regional bodies for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and the key role they can play in monitoring and raising awareness about intolerance and discrimination at the regional level, and reaffirm support for those bodies where they exist;

123. We recognize the paramount role played by Parliaments in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance by adopting appropriate legislation, overseeing its implementation and allocating the requisite financial resources;

124. We recognize the importance of independent national institutions and other relevant institutions created by law for the promotion and protection of human rights and ombudsman institutions in the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as for the promotion of democratic values and the rule of law. We reaffirm the need for such entities to be established where they do not exist and call upon the authorities and society in general in those countries where they are performing their tasks of promotion, protection and prevention to cooperate to the maximum extent possible with these entities/institutions, while respecting their independence;

125. We stress the importance of involving social partners and other non-governmental organizations in the design and implementation of training and development programmes;

126. We recognize the fundamental role of civil society in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in particular by helping/assisting Governments to develop regulations and strategies, as well as to take measures and action against such forms of discrimination and follow-up implementation;

127. Promoting greater respect and trust among ethnic, racial and religious groups must be the work of citizens and grass roots organizations, not merely governmental institutions and political leaders. Private, voluntary associations play an important role in promoting the public interest, especially in the area of racial harmony. The World Conference seeks to encourage the renewal of civil society and voluntary associations, especially citizen-led organizations whose purpose is to promote greater citizen cooperation. The World Conference commends particularly the world's diverse faith traditions for their uniform commitment to the principles of human worth and dignity;

128. [We welcome the catalytic role that non-governmental organizations have played in promoting human rights education and raising awareness about racism. [The full participation of NGOs] should be ensured in the follow-up to the World Conference. We recognize the precarious situation of human rights and anti-racist non-governmental organizations in many countries and urge States to lift unnecessary barriers to the functioning of civil society;]

129. Non-governmental organizations have the opportunity to create and sustain awareness among their members and in society at large regarding the evils of racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Such awareness can be transmitted from a nation to an international organization with all the added benefits of the concrete experience of a particular country;

130. We recognize that international and national exchange and dialogue [among youth]/[at all levels, in particular educational institutions, religious authorities and youth associations], and the development of a global network among youth are important and fundamental elements in building intercultural understanding and respect and will contribute to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

131. We note the importance of paying special attention to new manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to which young people might be exposed. We underline the usefulness of involving young people in the development of forward-looking national, regional and international strategies and in policies to fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

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